

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5884

To direct the Attorney General to convene a national working group to study proactive strategies and needed resources for the identification and rescue of children from sexual exploitation and abuse, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 4, 2021

Ms. SPANBERGER (for herself, Mr. CLINE, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. OWENS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To direct the Attorney General to convene a national working group to study proactive strategies and needed resources for the identification and rescue of children from sexual exploitation and abuse, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Response to
5 Exploitation and Sexual abuse of Children in Unaddressed
6 Emergencies Act” or the “Child RESCUE Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The growing international trade in child
4 sexual abuse material creates demand and incentive
5 for the sexual assault of children throughout the
6 United States.

7 (2) United States law enforcement efforts to
8 combat child sexual exploitation have the potential
9 to help multiple distinct groups of victims, includ-
10 ing—

11 (A) children depicted in child sexual abuse
12 material (CSAM) who are still being assaulted;

13 (B) children and adults whose victimiza-
14 tion as a child continues to be viewed and
15 shared online; and

16 (C) children who are being sexually as-
17 saulted by adults who could be interdicted while
18 accessing or sharing CSAM online.

19 (3) In congressional hearings held by the Com-
20 mittee on Energy and Commerce of the House of
21 Representatives in 2006, the Department of Justice,
22 the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and State law
23 enforcement leaders estimated that hundreds of
24 thousands of adults in the United States are engag-
25 ing in CSAM crimes.

1 (4) A growing body of research—including aca-
2 demic studies, analysis by the United States Sen-
3 tencing Commission, and findings by law enforce-
4 ment polygraphers—indicates that a majority of in-
5 dividuals possessing and sharing CSAM are “dual
6 offenders” who possess illegal imagery and also com-
7 mit contact offenses.

8 (5) According to a 2018 study by the National
9 Center for Missing and Exploited Children
10 (NCMEC), “in cases involving a single victim and
11 single offender, actively traded cases were associated
12 with having prepubescent victims. Actively traded
13 cases were also associated with more egregious con-
14 tent in terms of sexual activity, and more likely to
15 involve familial offenders, particularly nuclear family
16 members.”.

17 (6) Law enforcement investigations of
18 CyberTipline reports from the NCMEC frequently
19 lead to the rescue of current child victims, thus ena-
20 bling law enforcement to interdict offenders who are
21 abusing children by circulating CSAM and also com-
22 mitting contact offenses. In 2020, 21,700,000
23 CyberTipline reports were submitted to NCMEC and
24 approximately 200,000 CyberTipline reports were

1 made available to the 61 Internet Crimes Against
2 Children (ICAC) units across the country.

3 (7) United States law enforcement's ability to
4 detect and interdict online traffic in CSAM provides
5 a historic opportunity to locate sexual predators and
6 rescue children through victim-centric investigations.
7 In 2020, the Internet Crimes Against Children Child
8 Online Protection Services (ICACCOPS) and other
9 law enforcement investigative systems detected more
10 than 325,000 unique IP addresses in the U.S. that
11 were associated with CSAM and made available to
12 the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task
13 Forces.

14 (8) With inadequate resources, United States
15 law enforcement agencies are increasingly unable to
16 adequately respond to this rapidly growing number
17 of CyberTips and other investigative leads, a prob-
18 lem which also reduces the number of proactive un-
19 dercover investigations and education activities they
20 can conduct.

21 (9) Investigations of these crimes are com-
22 plicated by the increasing prevalence of encryption
23 and anonymizing services available to offenders.

24 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

25 In this Act:

1 (1) CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE MATERIAL.—The
2 term “child sexual abuse material” has the meaning
3 given the term “child pornography” in section 2256
4 of title 18, United States Code.

5 (2) KNOWN TO LAW ENFORCEMENT.—The term
6 “known to law enforcement” means a Federal,
7 State, or local law enforcement agency has evidence
8 of a crime that can be attributed to a person or location,
9 including an email address, Internet Protocol
10 address, screen name, computer global unique identifier,
11 phone number, or other information attributable
12 to that person or location.

13 (3) PROACTIVE POLICING.—The term
14 “proactive policing” means a specialized, covert, or
15 undercover investigation conducted by a law enforcement
16 agency that involves a person or organization
17 that the law enforcement agency believes is engaging
18 in a violation or violations of child sexual abuse,
19 child exploitation, or child sex trafficking crimes.

20 (4) WORKING GROUP.—The term “Working
21 Group” means the United States Working Group on
22 Children in Imminent Danger established under section
23 3(a).

1 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUP.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
3 date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall
4 establish a national working group, to be known as the
5 “United States Working Group on Children in Imminent
6 Danger”, to study victim-centric policing strategies and
7 resource needs to rescue children in the United States who
8 are—

9 (1) victims of child sexual abuse material; or
10 (2) victims of sexual abuse by individuals who
11 are also engaged in child sexual abuse material
12 crimes.

13 (b) PRIORITY.—In carrying out the study under sub-
14 section (a), the Working Group shall give priority to inves-
15 tigative leads that indicate the possibility of identifying or
16 rescuing child victims of sexual abuse or child sexual abuse
17 material crimes.

18 **SEC. 5. DUTIES OF THE WORKING GROUP.**

19 In carrying out the study under section 4, the Work-
20 ing Group shall—

21 (1) develop estimates of the total number of
22 adults in the United States who are committing
23 crimes involving the production, distribution, receipt,
24 or possession of child sexual abuse material, includ-
25 ing the number of such individuals who—

1 (A) could be interdicted by Federal, State,
2 or local law enforcement agencies if sufficient
3 funding resources were available; and

4 (B) are committing crimes involving sexual
5 contact with children;

6 (2) develop estimates of the total number of
7 minor victims of child sexual abuse in the United
8 States, disaggregated by age range, who—

9 (A) could be located and protected from
10 further abuse through the interdiction of indi-
11 viduals committing offenses described in para-
12 graph (1); or

13 (B) are likely to become victims of contact
14 sexual offenses by adults committing offenses
15 described in paragraph (1) during the 10-year
16 period beginning on the date of enactment of
17 this Act;

18 (3) develop estimates and descriptions of the
19 funding, resources, and proactive and reactive strat-
20 egies necessary for Federal, State, and local law en-
21 forcement agencies to successfully locate and protect
22 minor victims described in paragraph (2);

23 (4) develop estimates of the number of child
24 sexual abuse offenses that are reported annually in-

1 involving adults in a position of trust or authority in-
2 cluding—

3 (A) the total number of such offenses an-
4 nually known to social service agencies and
5 other non-law enforcement child abuse inves-
6 tigators, and whether or not those reports re-
7 ceived a concurrent law enforcement investiga-
8 tive response; and

9 (B) potential strategies and resources that
10 could be used to ensure that offenders reported
11 to social service agencies alleged to have com-
12 mitted contact sexual offenses are also inves-
13 tigated for potential child sexual abuse material
14 crimes; and

15 (5) provide additional analysis and nonduplica-
16 tive estimates of—

17 (A) the number of adults who were ar-
18 rested by Federal, State, and local law enforce-
19 ment agencies during the 5-year period ending
20 on the date of enactment of this Act, by year,
21 for any of the offenses described in paragraphs
22 (1) and (4);

23 (B) the number of adults who were pros-
24 ecuted at the Federal or State level during the
25 5-year period ending on the date of enactment

1 of this Act, by year, for any of the offenses de-
2 scribed in paragraphs (1) and (4);

3 (C) the estimated number of unidentified
4 victims depicted in child abuse imagery that is
5 known to the National Center for Missing and
6 Exploited Children; and

7 (D) the estimated number of cases that re-
8 ceive no investigative follow-up and the under-
9 lying reasons for that outcome.

10 **SEC. 6. MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—

12 (1) ATTORNEY GENERAL DISCRETION.—The
13 Working Group shall be composed of such represent-
14 atives of Federal departments and agencies, non-
15 Federal law enforcement agencies, nongovernmental
16 organizations, and subject matter experts as the At-
17 torney General considers appropriate.

18 (2) SPECIFIED MEMBERS.—The Attorney Gen-
19 eral shall appoint representatives of the following
20 agencies and nongovernmental organizations to the
21 Working Group:

22 (A) Three representatives from State or
23 local grantees of the Internet Crimes Against
24 Children Task Force program with extensive,
25 direct experience conducting both CyberTipline

1 investigations and proactive, online undercover
2 investigations, including use of specialized tools
3 for peer-to-peer investigations.

4 (B) A Chief or Deputy Chief of the Child
5 Exploitation and Obscenity Section of the
6 Criminal Division of the Department of Justice.

7 (C) The National Coordinator for Child
8 Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction of the
9 Department of Justice.

10 (D) A representative of the Behavioral
11 Analysis Unit of the United States Marshals
12 Service with subject matter expertise in child
13 exploitation offenders who also commit contact
14 offenses.

15 (E) A special agent of Homeland Security
16 Investigations with expertise in both
17 CyberTipline investigations and proactive online
18 investigations.

19 (F) A subject matter expert within Home-
20 land Security Investigations with expertise in
21 child victim identification.

22 (G) A special agent of the Federal Bureau
23 of Investigation with expertise in both
24 CyberTipline investigations and proactive online

1 investigations and the use of polygraphs in
2 child sexual abuse material investigations.

3 (H) A representative from the National
4 Children's Alliance with expertise in child ex-
5 ploitation and child victim forensic interviewing.

6 (I) A special agent of the United States
7 Secret Service with expertise in investigations
8 of child sexual abuse material or polygraphs of
9 child sexual exploitation suspects.

10 (J) A special agent of the United States
11 Postal Inspection Service with expertise in in-
12 vestigations of child sexual abuse material.

13 (K) A representative from the National
14 District Attorney's Association.

15 (L) A representative from the academic
16 community with expertise in developing tech-
17 nology that can proactively detect the distribu-
18 tion of CSAM online.

19 (M) At the election of the head of the rel-
20 evant entity—

21 (i) a representative of the Internet
22 Crimes Against Children Task Force pro-
23 gram;

24 (ii) a representative from the ICAC
25 Child Online Protection System

1 (ICACCOPS) at the National Criminal
2 Justice Training Center with subject mat-
3 ter expertise on child sexual exploitation
4 and abuse investigations;

5 (iii) a representative at the Child Res-
6 cue Coalition with subject matter expertise
7 on the CPS system and other child sexual
8 exploitation and abuse investigations;

9 (iv) a representative of the National
10 Center for Missing and Exploited Children
11 with subject matter expertise on child sex-
12 ual exploitation and abuse and child victim
13 identification; and

14 (v) a representative of the Rape,
15 Abuse & Incest National Network with
16 subject matter expertise on child sexual ex-
17 plitation and abuse.

(b) CESSATION OF MEMBERSHIP.—If an individual is appointed to the Working Group based on membership in an agency or organization and the individual ceases to be a member of that agency or organization, the individual shall cease to be a member of the Working Group on the date on which the member ceases to be a member of the agency or organization.

1 (c) TERMS.—A member of the Working Group shall
2 be appointed for the life of the Working Group.

3 (d) VACANCIES.—

4 (1) VACANCY BEFORE EXPIRATION OF TERM.—
5 A member appointed to the Working Group to fill a
6 vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term
7 for which the member's predecessor was appointed
8 shall be appointed only for the remainder of that
9 term.

10 (2) MANNER OF APPOINTMENT.—A vacancy in
11 the Working Group shall be filled in the manner in
12 which the original appointment was made.

13 (e) COMPENSATION.—A member of the Working
14 Group shall serve without pay.

15 (f) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the
16 Working Group shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser
17 number may hold hearings.

18 (g) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the Working
19 Group shall be elected by a majority vote of the Working
20 Group.

21 (h) MEETINGS.—The Working Group shall hold vir-
22 tual meetings monthly, and any subgroup of the Working
23 Group shall hold additional meetings as necessary.

1 **SEC. 7. STAFF OF WORKING GROUP; EXPERTS AND CON-**

2 **SULTANTS.**

3 (a) STAFF.—The Chairperson of the Working Group
4 may appoint and fix the pay of additional personnel as
5 the Chairperson considers appropriate.

6 (b) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—The Chairperson
7 of the Working Group may procure temporary and inter-
8 mittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United
9 States Code.

10 (c) DETAILEES.—Upon request of the Chairperson of
11 the Working Group, the head of any Federal department
12 or agency may detail, on a reimbursable basis, any of the
13 personnel of that department or agency to the Working
14 Group to assist in carrying out the duties of the Working
15 Group under this Act.

16 **SEC. 8. POWERS OF WORKING GROUP.**

17 (a) HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Working Group may,
19 for the purpose of carrying out this Act, hold hear-
20 ings, sit and act at times and places, take testimony,
21 and receive evidence as the Working Group considers
22 appropriate.

23 (2) WITNESSES.—The Working Group may ad-
24 minister oaths or affirmations to witnesses appear-
25 ing before the Working Group.

1 (b) POWERS OF MEMBERS AND AGENTS.—Any mem-
2 ber or agent of the Working Group may, if authorized by
3 the Chairperson, take any action that the Working Group
4 is authorized to take under this section, including request-
5 ing information.

6 (c) OBTAINING OFFICIAL INFORMATION.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Working Group may se-
8 cure directly from any department or agency of the
9 United States information necessary to enable the
10 Working Group to carry out this Act.

11 (2) FURNISHING INFORMATION.—Upon request
12 of the Chairperson of the Working Group for infor-
13 mation under paragraph (1), the head of the depart-
14 ment or agency of the United States shall furnish
15 that information to the Working Group.

16 (d) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—Upon
17 the request of the Working Group, the Administrator of
18 General Services shall provide to the Working Group, on
19 a reimbursable basis, the administrative support services
20 necessary for the Working Group to carry out the respon-
21 sibilities of the Working Group under this Act.

22 **SEC. 9. REPORT.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 365 days after the
24 date of enactment of this Act, the Working Group shall
25 submit to the Attorney General, the Committee on the Ju-

1 diciary of the Senate, the Committee on Appropriations
2 of the Senate, the Committee on the Judiciary of the
3 House of Representatives, and the Committee on Approp-
4 priations of the House of Representatives, a report that
5 contains—

6 (1) a detailed statement of the findings and
7 conclusions of the Working Group, together with
8 recommendations for legislation; and

9 (2) a summary of the support, documents, and
10 witnesses to the Committee provided by the Depart-
11 ment of Justice to the Working Group.

12 (b) MATERIAL INCLUDED.—A majority vote of the
13 members of the Working Group shall determine the find-
14 ings, conclusions, and recommendations included in the re-
15 port submitted under subsection (a).

16 **SEC. 10. TERMINATION.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Working Group shall termi-
18 nate 120 days after submission of the report under section
19 9, unless the Attorney General determines that such ter-
20 mination is not appropriate.

21 (b) RECONVENING GROUP.—If the Working Group
22 terminates under subsection (a), the Attorney General
23 may reconvene the Working Group in accordance with this
24 Act.

